



Trade Facts

Office of the United States Trade Representative
October 21, 2005

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American Agriculture Supports U.S. WTO Doha Agriculture Proposal for Bold Reform

What They Are Saying:

“The agricultural trade proposals put forth today by the United States will significantly advance that position within the WTO agriculture negotiations. We call on U.S. Trade Ambassador Portman and Agriculture Secretary Johanns to continue their strong advocacy to secure enhanced market access for U.S. farm products that would be worthy of further reform in the area of U.S. domestic supports....It must be emphasized that real trade reform must include substantial, ambitious and quantifiable expansion in access to markets. We will do our share on domestic support but developed and developing countries must do their part in reforming and expanding market access opportunities.”

Bob Stallman, President, American Farm Bureau Federation

“We are pleased that the U.S. is once again leading the way in the WTO on agricultural trade liberalization. We fully support the U.S. negotiating objectives and look forward to the conclusion of a comprehensive, meaningful Doha Round agreement.... For the U.S. pork industry, the key to a successful Doha Round agreement is a big market access package. The U.S. has taken a bold step today by showing real flexibility on domestic policies. It is now up to our trading partners to make an agreement possible by offering substantial market access liberalization.”

Don Buhl, President, National Pork Producers Council

“The U.S. proposal creates an environment to make great strides in opening up global agricultural trade for consumers and producers worldwide by bringing about meaningful improvements in all three pillars of the agricultural negotiations – export subsidies, trade-distorting domestic supports and market access... We urge that nations participating in the WTO negotiations use the momentum provided by this proposal to redouble efforts to make substantial progress toward an agricultural trade accord prior to the meeting of trade ministers in Hong Kong in December. By advancing a bold proposal for agriculture, the Bush administration has shown its leadership and commitment to advancing free trade, a tremendously powerful engine for economic growth.”

**Kendell W. Keith, President, National Grain and Feed Association and
Gary Martin, President, North American Export Grain Association**

“We recognize the proposal advanced by the Administration today in Zurich sends a credible signal to the rest of the world that the U.S. is prepared to make substantial cuts in trade-distorting domestic support if, and only if, market access barriers are greatly reduced and export subsidy practices are eliminated.”

Bob Metz, President, American Soybean Association

“The bold position put forward this week by U.S. trade negotiators in the World Trade Organization Doha Development Agenda negotiations, puts the U.S. back in a strong offensive position. The U.S. proposal for substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic supports should remove any excuses countries may have had for refusing to accept major reductions in tariff and non-tariff barriers. We hope that the leadership demonstrated by the U.S. on the sensitive issue of domestic supports in agriculture will clear the path for a successful WTO Ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December.”
James H. Sumner, President, U.S.A. Poultry & Egg Export Council

“The scope of the U.S. domestic support proposal would likely bring comprehensive change for most developed countries, including U.S. agriculture. There must be corresponding gains in market access, particularly changes in market access to China.”

Woods Eastland, Chairman, National Cotton Council of America

“This proposal by U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman is a bold step forward to ending trade-distorting subsidies, here in the U.S. and in countries around the world. Such decisive action and leadership is necessary if we are to break the deadlock that currently exists in the agricultural negotiations for the World Trade Organization’s Doha Development Agenda. The Food Products Association applauds Ambassador Portman for his leadership on this issue. It is our strong hope that the European Union, Japan and other countries around the world respond positively to these proposals and engage in discussions to end existing barriers to the free international trade in agricultural products.”

Cal Dooley, President and CEO, Food Products Association

"USTR's aggressive proposal is exactly what is needed to get the crucial WTO negotiations back on track. This should prompt real movement during December's Hong Kong WTO Ministerial. The Doha Round has the potential to have a deep impact on liberalizing agricultural trade, and we hope that other countries will reciprocate with meaningful market access commitments to keep the talks moving ahead."

Clay Hough, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, International Dairy Foods Association

“We commend the U.S. government for its leadership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) agriculture trade negotiations. The ambitious U.S. proposal regarding domestic supports and export subsidies is a necessary first step toward breaking the current stalemate in the talks. When implemented, these changes will increase the export potential for the food industry, which is a significant component of the U.S. agricultural sector. The successful conclusion of the WTO Doha Round of negotiations requires that we dismantle the existing barriers to trade in agriculture, especially in the area of market access. Going forward, we hope other governments will respond with equally ambitious proposals.”

Sarah Thorn, Senior Director, Grocery Manufacturers Association

“It is an aggressive proposal that encompasses many of the Northwest Horticultural Council’s goals and objectives for the next round of WTO negotiations. We hope that this proposal will encourage other trading partners to join the U.S. and support an ambitious undertaking in Hong Kong.”

Mark Powers, Vice President, Northwest Horticultural Council

“It demonstrates the Bush administration’s commitment to get the Doha round of trade talks on a fast track for completion. We enthusiastically support the tariff cutting formula suggested by the United States earlier today. If adopted, this would cut the highest tariffs imposed by our trading partners by 90% and could be of enormous benefit to California agriculture. The U.S. proposal also proposes to eliminate all export subsidies by 2010, something that we in California agriculture strongly support. It should also bring broad support from agriculture through out the world, particularly in the developing and less developed countries.”

Roger J. Baccigaluppi, Chairman and CEO, RB International

“This bold U.S. offer presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to re-assess the purpose of public financial support to agriculture and to re-align that support with things that strengthen the future for farming and respond to taxpayers’ expectation of farmers to produce clean water, wildlife habitat, healthy foods, food security and energy independence.”

Ralph Grossi, President, American Farmland Trust